

**Permaculture Cairns Inc.** Established July, 2007 Inc. No. IA35907  
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*Care of the Earth, Care of  
People, Share the excess*

Web site: [www.permaculturecairns.org.au](http://www.permaculturecairns.org.au)

# Permaculture Cairns News

Empowering communities with sustainable solutions

Volume 3 No 2 ~ July 2009

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Permaculture Cairns meets  
3rd Tues every month 6–8pm.

## Meeting format:

6pm: swap, trade, sell,  
barter, and exchange pro-  
duce

6.30: Invited speaker

7.15: Check in with the  
group's activities; group  
business and upcoming pro-  
jects.

7.30: Plant of the month.  
Shared meal & refreshments  
Visitors & new members wel-  
come. \$5 suggested minimum  
donation.

We want to thank our sponsors for gener-  
ously supporting our Mothers' Day raffle.

Yaruga Nursery  
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Colin Charnley Chiropractor  
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Re-joov'n'8 Massage  
Farmgate Market (NSDA)  
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Alive Discount Pharmacy  
Brynes Meats Wholesalers  
Fusion Organics  
The Spice Girls  
The Wholefood Co  
Living Earth Games - Lizet (member)  
Collins Booksellers  
Ticham Creek Coffee Farm

## Presidents Report



Kym Kruse

G'Day all,

### New Newsletter dates

June 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the winter solstice and we'd hoped to release of our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly edition Newsletter for the year. (Sorry for the delay this time round). But in 2009 we'll be saying G'Day with the seasons and editions of our newsletter will come out on the Solstices and Equinoxes. The next edition will be on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by December 21<sup>st</sup>. Having a look back over the last few months, there has been a lot of very positive and inspiring happenings to share.

### Festivals

On Mothers Day in May we had a great little display at the annual Tropical Garden Fair held at Cannon Park Racecourse. The inclement weather may have kept a few people away but there was still plenty of interest in our stall and in particular the fantastic raffle organized by Lydia. Lydia has to be congratulated and thanked for the effort she put in to organizing the raffle, which was extremely well supported by many local businesses, as well as the Field Trip to Cape Trib (see report). It's great to see our members organizing events for the group to be involved in. If you have an idea you'd like to see happen, a PET Day, a Field Trip, a project, a workshop...let us all know so we can support you in helping to make it happen!

Kym's Report continues overpage.

**Next meeting – Tuesday 21st July @ 6pm  
Cairns Saints Clubhouse, Monk Street, Manunda**

### Kym's Report cont.

The TANKS market day was the other event we held a stall at and thanks to everyone who came to help out on the day. A regular part of our display is the straw bale veggie patch which Clayton demonstrated to many onlookers' amazement as he poked bok choy, mignonette lettuce and other greens, with small amounts of compost into the spaces between the biscuits in the bale. An entire salad garden grown in a \$4 bale of hay! There are many other "themed bails" that can be made up including; pizza bale, spice bale, stir fry bale, curry bale?

The Green Expo at TAFE was the 3<sup>rd</sup> event we had a presence at and this year there were more stalls and more people interested in chook tractors, community gardens, PET Days and worm farms. Good onya Anne for going live on ABC radio during the event, giving the group a plug and explaining to the presenter that a chicken tractor didn't involve harnesses nor miniature plows! Well done also to Bruce for stepping up and running a Compost & Compost Tea workshop on the day. You make a mean brew mate!

Kym's report continues... see p.3

## Cape Tribulation Field Day

Members of the Cairns Permaculture group ventured north to breath taking Cape Tribulation to visit a well established Permaculture Exotic Fruit Farm. The delights of Alison & Digby's well established food forest were on offer as well as a fascinating talk about the rare and uncommon tropical fruit grown on the farm. We were then invited to tour the orchards, food forest and veggie gardens.

After lunch the group visited the Daintree Tea farm. Our hosts, Lynda and Elizabeth gave us a tour of the processing plant explaining tea production from harvest to packaging in little individual cup bags. We left with a box of tea and have more to reflect upon now when enjoying a nice cuppa-tea.



## Next People Energy Transfer P.E.T Day

Giving members opportunities to learn by working on each other's gardens, helping each other move toward self-reliance. Help Niki clear weeds & re-design her existing garden. This beautiful back yard won the Judges Special Mention of the Cairns City Council Awards 2 years ago. Enjoy a drink & nibbles after a day of pleasant "hard yakka".

**When:** Sunday 5 July, 2009 @ 2.00 pm

**Where:** 6 Crowley Close, Whitfield

**Email Niki:** [birotwins@optusnet.com.au](mailto:birotwins@optusnet.com.au)

Thanks to our Supporters

**Enviromart  
Australia**

Organic Garden Supplies, Heritage  
Seeds, Books on Permaculture, Bio-  
dynamics & organic gardening  
Compost worms... & much more!  
Shop 3, 164 Aumuller St Bungalow (next  
to the P.O.) Ph: 40 412233

## Stop Press

## Machans Beach Community Garden

### Machans Beach 2009 Calendar

July 12	Working bee
July 26	Working bee
<b>August 9</b>	<b>Machans Beach Big Permi Blitz</b>
July 23	Working bee
Sept 6	Working bee
<b>Sept 20</b>	<b>Workshops day</b>
Oct 4	Working bee
Oct 18	Working bee
<b>Nov 1</b>	<b>Workshops Day</b>
Nov 15	Working bee
Nov 29	Handover to community

One of the most exciting developments has been the successful application to council for over \$5000 to go towards the Machans Beach Community Garden re-design and development. A big thanks to Ron & Chrissie for the efforts they put in to getting the grant proposal together. A small working group has been formed and a schedule of events constructed which will be highlighted by a HUGE open day at the gardens on August 9<sup>th</sup>. With the school 100% behind the venture, I'm sure the Machans Community will also get on board once they come see what is happening in their backyard. Community gardens, especially within schools, present such a great opportunity for people to meet, share ideas and help each other learn the many arts of self-reliance. We now have the space, resources and people to help make the gardens a prime example of the group's efforts to share Permaculture with the community. Come join in and have a mulching good time!

### In the Garden – getting chilly with it

Now is certainly the time to have ALL those veggies in, as pretty much anything will grow at this time of year up here. Up at Rosella Waters in WALKAMIN, evenings have been dropping to 10 C, so some of the cooler climate brassicas etc even get a look in the annual garden. It's also a great time to do that sheet mulching you've been meaning to get round to, whilst the rampant growth we experience up here settles for a bit. Be rest assured it'll be back when the rains come again! Enjoy the great gardening weather and happy composting!

## Building With Big Bamboo—2 part workshop, Japoonvale

Part 1 (Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 9—4pm) We will look at Harvesting, Clump Maintenance, Curing, Preservation and Propagation of Tropical Clumping Bamboos.

Part 2 (2 days, 9—4pm, 4 weeks later) Building with bamboo, wall panels, lightweight structures, different jointing techniques and generally explore bamboo's endless functions.

Facilitators are Rob Swain and Julianne Hartmann of Bamboo Solutions.

Website [www.bamboosolutions.yolasite.com](http://www.bamboosolutions.yolasite.com)

Bookings Please ring Kerry on 40655003.

Cost Part 1 \$80. Part 2 \$200.

## New Group Structure

At our recent monthly meeting we had a great discussion about the groups current structure and the need for more clearly defined roles and involvement from more members to help things run. Thankyou to everyone who gave input and for those who missed the night, the door is most definitely open with many positions still vacant. A Fundraising Manager is our most pressing need, so someone out there, keen to be involved and with experience in grant writing, we need you!

New people filled a couple of old positions. Anne has taken on Rob's position as Secretary and Carol offered to take on the role of Treasurer from the heavily pregnant Georgie. A big thanks to you both and also to Rob & Georgie for their efforts over the last 12 months or so. Rob is staying on as our unofficial "WebMaster", continuing to make our site look fab & Georgie remains on the committee to share the load.

The structure of the monthly meetings themselves was also talked about. As many of you would be aware the meetings had become too "committee meeting" like (due to lack of one!) and moved away from our original plans. The good news is we're going back to the original format with a new twist or two. A 10-minute question time before our shared meal will be part of the deal. A chance to ask the group ANY Permaculture queries you may have...two heads are always better than one! With more of an educational focus, the meetings will be a whole lot more fun and informative for those who attend. A clarion call to all members to suggest Guest Speakers and put us in touch with the people you'd like to hear!

## Special Guest Speaker

At our next monthly meeting on **Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup>** we have a wonderful guest speaker. **Paul Taylor** will be in town presenting a 2-day workshop on Compost & Compost Tea and that will be the main topic of discussion for the evening. Paul was born and raised on an organic farm. He has owned and developed seven organic farms and provided more than 400 agricultural consultancy services throughout the world. As a former Director of ASAP supplies he has extensive experience in the [Soil](#)

[Foodweb](#) system of vital soil management as developed by Dr. Elaine Ingham. Paul's practice, grounded in Permaculture principles and comprehensive earthworks for improved water management, led him to co-consulting with world-renowned Permaculture designer [Geoff Lawton](#) on projects in Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

**Kym Kruse, President, Permaculture Cairns**

Support the ongoing work of the group and enjoy the many benefits of becoming a member. Join today!

\$20.00 individual per year

\$30 per family

\$30.00 family per year

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